out, and persons suffering from fluorosis are indentified and provided necessary drugs. Action is taken by them to spread awareness among people for prevention of fluorosis).

Fluorosis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a state subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodya Yojana (PMGY)—Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Department of Drinking Water Supply sanctioned 56 sub-mission projects in Andhra Pradesh between the years 1992 and 1998 with an approved cost of Rs. 571 crores out of the Government of India share was Rs. 428 crores under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana.

Anti-AIDS Drug Prices

1878. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to constitute a working group including members from Pharmaceutical Industry to chalk-out a strategy to reduce Anti-AIDS Drug prices in India, in order to make these costly drugs available at cheaper rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would form such a working group immediately, as the incurable AIDS disease has become a great menace to the entire nation, for which reducing the costly Anti-AIDS drugs to a much cheaper rate, is the only solution for the survival of AIDS patients for a longer period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

A Working Group was constituted under the charmanship of Union Health Secretary including the members of Pharmaceutical Industries to chalk out a strategy to reduce the Anti-AIDS drug prices in India.

The Working Group held two meetings: first on 19th November 2003 and the second meeting on 24th November 2003. Working Group suggested ways for reduction in the prices of Anti-retroviral drugs and testing/diagnostic equipment required for the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Working Group also recommended logistics for distribution of antiretroviral drugs to health care facilities.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Grant-in-Aid to States under NIAF

1879. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Grant-in-Aid released to States under "National Illness Assistance Fund" (NIAF) uptill 31st March, 2004;

(b) the ailments/diseases eligible for assistance under the scheme;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the budgetary outlay to the fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Rs. 42.075 crores.

(b) The details are given in the Statement (See below)

(c) to (e) Rs. 2.90 crores have been kept as the budget outlay for the year 2004-05. Depending upon the trend of expenditure and demand from the State Governments, if required more fund can be requisitioned at RE. Stage.

Statement

ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF CATEGORIES OF TREATMENT FOR WHICH ASSISTANCE IS TO BE PROVED FROM THE RASHTRIYA AROGY AVIDHI

1. Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

Pacemakers disposable for interventional procedure including TMT, Echocardiography Coronary Angiography, Angioplasty Atheretomy, Heartsiwrgery for Congenital and Acquired conditions including C.A.B.G., Vascular Surgery stents and Cardiac Transplantation, etc.